



Keeping TAB on the people of Huntington County

Celebrating all things Huntington Chamber honors several during annual dinner

By Joseph Slacian

The Huntington County Chamber of Commerce celebrated local communities and more on Tuesday, March 14, during its annual dinner and meeting.

Awards were presented to several, and various aspects of the county, from education to business and even professional athletes were lauded during the event, which took place at the PAL Club. "There are several people that went above and beyond," Chamber Director Steve Kimmel said before presenting awards.

Honored were:
The Huntington County Disaster Team were named Volunteers of the Year.

Kimmel noted that the group "works tirelessly for Huntington and Huntington County. This team of volunteers are always ready and willing to help wherever needed... And they ask for nothing in return."

Teijin Automotive Technology was named the Business of the Year.

Teijin broke ground in Huntington County in August 2010. "Since the groundbreaking, this company has changed its name but continues to invest in Huntington County," Kimmel said.

The company broke ground in 2022 on a new plant to be located in the city's newest industrial park.

Ian Stallings, investor and owner of the Silver Moon 3 Pub, as named Entrepreneur of the Year.

Kimmel praised Stallings whom, he said, "spent countless hours, time and money in planning and restoring a large part of Huntington's history."

"His love for this building, built in 1883, and his love for this community is still burning in him today."

Stallings said he was shocked to have received the honor. "I am seriously thankful," he said. "I am really excited for what we can do together."

Through the program, emcee Mike Perkins called several individuals to the stage to discuss various aspects of life in Huntington County and the successes those aspects had in 2022.

Stallings spoke about his efforts to refurbish and open Silver Moon Pub 3, while Perkins later pointed out other dining establishments around the county and what they've accomplished over the past year.



John Garrott (left), 2022 Chamber board chair and Brock Zehr (right), 2023 Chamber board chair, present the Volunteer of the Year award to Huntington County Disaster Team members Lenard Zellar (second, from left), director Max Kaylor and Fred Cargo.



John Garrott (left), 2022 Chamber board chair and Brock Zehr (right), 2023 Chamber board chair, present the Business of the Year award to Rick Doering, Teijin Automotive Technology plant manager. Photos by Joseph Slacian

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Mark Wickersham, executive director of the Huntington County Economic Development, discussed various projects around the community.

In 2022, some \$234 million was invested in various projects. In addition to the Teijin groundbreaking, the Novae corp. broke ground for a 150,000 square foot facility in Markle, and ProMach-Shutleworth completed its building addition.

Chuck Brimbury discussed secondary education at Huntington North High School, while Dr. Sherilyn Emberton, president of Huntington University discussed various things there, including a record enrollment of 1,428 students in the fall of 2020.

HN Athletic Director Jeremy Markham spoke about the opening of the new football complex last fall,

while Huntington University CEO Russ Degitz discussed a new sports complex being built on theampus.

John Niederman discussed his role with the Fortitude Fund in Huntington County, while Brock Zehr, president of the Chamber board, also spoke.

"During the past year, our Chamber board has accomplished a lot," he said. "We've hosted business networking event such as Coffee Connections, the new member breakfast and new business ribbon cuttings.

"We've also hosted business education events and lunch and learn seminars."

Lunch with leaders, which teams HU students with various business

leaders around the community also took off in the past year.

The Chamber also launched its new website this past year.

"It's been a great year for your Chamber of Commerce, and we will continue to make Huntington a great place to live, work and play," Zehr said.

HU runner and Huntington North graduate Addy Wiley was lauded for her efforts on the track, while pro bowler and Huntington native E.J. Tackett, who completed the Triple Crown of Bowling earlier this year with a win at the U.S. Open in Indianapolis, the ninth bowler in history to accomplish the feat.

Huntington Mayor Richard



John Garrott (left), 2022 Chamber board chair and Brock Zehr (right), 2023 Chamber board chair, present the Entrepreneur of the Year award to Ian Stallings, (second from left, investor and owner of the Silver Moon 3 Pub, Ian Hasselbacher, Silver Moon 3 Pub manager. Photo by Joseph Slacian

Strick opened the evening talking about the city's 175th anniversary this year, and various projects planned to help celebrate the event.